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#412

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

MATTHEW F. ABBOTT,	)	
A resident of Indiana	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	No. 08 C 642
	)	
STARLINGER NORTH AMERICA,	)	JUDGE DARRAH
INC., an Illinois corporation,	)	
MAPLAN MASCHINEN und	)	MAG. JUDGE VALDEZ
TECHNISCHE ANLAGEN PLANUGS	)	
und FERTIGUNGS Gesellschaft m.b.H.,	)	
an Austrian Company and STARLINGER &	)	
COMPANY Gesellschaft m.b.H., an	)	
Austrian company,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**MAPLAN MASCHINEN UND TECHNISCHE ANLAGEN PLANUNGS  
UND FERTIGUNGS GESMBH'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF MATTHEW F. ABBOTT'S  
AMENDED COMPLAINT**

Now comes the Defendant, Maplan Maschinen und Technische Anlagen Planungs und Fertigungs Gesmbh, an Austrian Company ("Maplan" hereafter), by its attorneys, Lloyd E. Williams, Jr. and Hanson L. Williams, and answers the Amended Complaint of the Plaintiff, Matthew F. Abbott, as follows:

**Jurisdiction and Venue**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter pursuant to 28 USC § 1332:

- a. At all relevant time, upon information and belief, Starlinger North America, Inc. was an Illinois corporation having its principal place of business in the Northern District of Illinois and was the exclusive distributor for Maplan Maschinen und Technische Anlagen Planungs und Fertigungs GesmbH, an Austrian Company, and Starlinger & Company GesmbH within North America;
- b. At al relevant times, upon information and belief, Starlinger & Company GesmbH was an Austrian company purposefully availing itself of the privilege of conducting activities within the Northern District of Illinois;
- c. At all relevant times, upon information and belief, MAPLAN Maschinen und Technische Anlagen Planungs und Fertigungs GesmbH was an Austrian company purposefully availing itself of the privilege of conducting activities within the Northern District of Illinois;
- d. At all relevant times, plaintiff was a resident and citizen of Indiana; and
- e. The amount in controversy, exclusive of costs and interest, exceeds \$75,000.00;
- f. This Court has jurisdiction over the Defendants.

**ANSWER:** a. Maplan admits that Starlinger North America, Inc. is an Illinois Corporation having its principal place of business in the Northern District of Illinois and was the exclusive distributor for Maplan Maschinen und Technische Anlagen Planungs und Fertigungs GesmbH, an Austrian Company, within North America, but denies that it was a distributor for Starlinger & Company GesmbH within North America.

- b. Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 1.b.
- c. Maplan admits the allegations of paragraph 1.c.
- d. Maplan is without sufficient information with which to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 1.d.
- e. Maplan admits the allegations of paragraph 1.e.
- f. Maplan denies the court has jurisdiction over Starlinger & Company Gesellschaft m.b.H, an Austrian Company, but admits it has jurisdiction over the remaining defendants.

2. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 USC § 1391 since Starlinger resides within the Northern District of Illinois.

**ANSWER:** Maplan is without sufficient knowledge with which to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 2.

**Count I – Strict Products Liability**

1. At all times relevant herein, Starlinger was in the business of manufacturing, settling, distributing, or otherwise placing into the stream of commerce products, including without limitation the Maplan MTF 100/15C, Serial No. 204001763, Rubber Injection Moulding Machine ("Maplan Moulding Machine").

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits that Starlinger North America, Inc. was in the business of selling and distributing products and did sell distribute the Maplan MTF 100/15C Serial No. 204001763 Rubber Injection Moulding Machine, but denies the remainder of the allegations of paragraph 1.

2. Before July 21, 2006, but after July 21, 1996, Starlinger manufactured, sold, distributed, or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce a Maplan Moulding Machine which was ultimately purchased by NISCO for use by its employees, including Matthew.

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits before July 21, 2006 but after July 21, 1996 Starlinger North America, Inc. sold and distributed a Maplan Moulding Machine which was ultimately purchased by NISCO for use by its employees, including Plaintiff, but denies that Starlinger & Company Gesellschaft m.b.H did so.

3. At all times relevant, Starlinger owed Matthew and all other reasonably foreseeable users of the Maplan Moulding Machine a duty to design, manufacture, distribute, sell, install and otherwise place into the stream of commerce a Maplan Moulding Machine which was neither defective nor unreasonably dangerous for all intended and reasonably foreseeable uses as well as the duty to exercise reasonable care in the design, manufacture, distribution, modification, service, sale and installation of said Maplan Moulding Machine.

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits the duties imposed by law upon Starlinger North America, Inc., but denies that all of the allegations of paragraph 3 correctly state those duties.

4. On July 21, 2006, while using said Maplan Moulding Machine engaged in the performance of his job duties at NISCO, Matthew suffered serious and permanent injuries when the Maplan Moulding Machine caught, burned, and traumatically amputated his fingers on his dominant hand.

**ANSWER:** Maplan is without sufficient knowledge with which to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 4.

5. At the time it left the control of Starlinger, the Maplan Moulding Machine was defective and unreasonably dangerous, and it was not fit for its intended purpose and, furthermore, the foregoing entities, acting through authorized agents, servants, and/or employees, breached their respective duties of care and were negligent in the management, repair, service, maintenance, supervision, control, and/or procurement of the Maplan Moulding Machine and/or in selecting a Maplan Moulding Machine or the components thereof so that the could be used safely by reasonably foreseeable users. Starlinger breached one or more of the foregoing duties in one or more of the following ways, *inter alia*:

- a. Starlinger designed the Maplan Moulding Machine in such a manner that an operator's hand could be caught in the machine;
- b. Starlinger manufactured the Maplan Moulding Machine in such a manner that an operator's hand could be caught in the machine;
- c. Starlinger designed the Maplan Moulding Machine without a means to open the machine if an operator's hand became caught in the machine;
- d. Starlinger manufactured the Maplan Moulding Machine without a means to open the machine if an operator's hand became caught in the machine;
- e. Starlinger failed to inspect and/or test the Maplan Moulding Machine prior to placing it into the stream of commerce, when a reasonable inspection and/or test would have revealed unreasonably dangerous and/or defective conditions in the Maplan Moulding Machine;
- f. Starlinger failed to provide complete warnings with the Maplan Moulding Machine regarding the dangers presented by the machine;
- g. Starlinger failed to provide complete instructions with the Maplan Moulding Machine regarding its proper use;
- h. Starlinger failed to exercise reasonable care in the design, manufacture and installation of the Maplan Moulding Machine so as to ensure that it could not be operated or the mold engaged when operators were clearing, repairing,

servicing, or otherwise maintaining the machine in a reasonably foreseeable manner;

- i. Starlinger failed to exercise reasonable care in the design, manufacture and installation of the Maplan Moulding Machine so as to ensure that it had safe and adequate guards at its pinch-points and point of operation so as to prevent operators and other users of the machine from foreseeable injury while the machine was being utilized in a reasonably foreseeable manner;
- j. Starlinger failed to warn Matthew and other users of known or expected dangers in the Maplan Moulding Machine which were not apparent to the ordinary user and which posed a danger of serious injury or death to Matthew and others under conditions of foreseeable use;
- k. Starlinger inadequately warned Matthew and other users of known or expected dangers in the Maplan Moulding Machine which were not apparent to the ordinary user and which posed a danger of serious injury or death to Matthew and others under conditions of foreseeable use;
- l. Starlinger failed to comply with applicable ANSI, ISO, ASTM, OSHA, and other safety standards governing design, manufacture, set-up, sale, warnings, installation and/or guarding of the Maplan Moulding Machine;
- m. Starlinger failed to comply with acceptable custom and practice in the industry governing design, manufacture, set-up, sale, warnings, installation and/or guarding of the Maplan Moulding Machine;
- n. Starlinger failed to exercise reasonable care in the design, manufacture, set-up and installation of the Maplan Moulding Machine so as to ensure that it had adequate and proper controls including an emergency stop which could be easily accessed and activated by all foreseeable users whether on or around the Maplan Moulding Machine;
- o. Starlinger failed to act as a reasonably prudent designer, manufacturer, seller, distributor, seller, installer, manager, supervisor, repair person, service person, or person procuring the Maplan Moulding Machine would have acted under the same or similar circumstances;
- p. Starlinger failed to recall or retrieve the Maplan Moulding Machine after it had actual knowledge that it was unreasonably dangerous and/or defective; and/or

- q. Starlinger failed to use the same care and caution that a reasonably prudent person would have used under the same or substantially similar circumstances.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 5, including each and every subparagraph letters a. through q. therein.

6. As a direct and proximate result of Starlinger's unreasonably dangerous and/or defective Maplan Moulding Machine, Matthew's dominant hand became caught in the machine while operating it at NISCO on July 21, 2006 and his hand was burned and could not be extricated for several minutes until others cut the hydraulic lines of the machine since there was no means to open the machine if an operator's hand became caught.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies that the Maplan Moulding Machine was unreasonably dangerous and/or defective, and is without sufficient knowledge with which to admit or deny the remaining allegations of paragraph 6.

7. As a proximate result of the negligence of defendants, Matthew suffered severe personal injuries; incurred ambulance, hospital, diagnostic, pharmaceutical, therapeutic, surgical, and other medical expenses; may incur such expenses in the future; suffered and may suffer physical pain, mental suffering, terror, fright, loss of time, impairment of earnings capacity, and permanent disability, disfigurement; loss of enjoyment of life; and incurred other injuries and damages of a personal and pecuniary nature.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 7 and denies that the plaintiff was injured or damaged in the manner or to the extent alleged.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Maplan Maschinen und Technische Anlagen Planungs und Fertigungs Gesmbh, an Austrian Company, denies that Plaintiff is entitled to relief in any amount whatsoever and requests that the Amended Complaint be dismissed with prejudice, that judgment be entered in favor of the Defendant and that it be awarded attorneys' fees, costs and such other and further relief this Court deems just and equitable.

**Count II Negligence**

1. At all times relevant herein, Starlinger was in the business of manufacturing, selling, distributing, or otherwise placing into the stream of commerce products, including without limitation the Maplan MTF 100/15C, Serial No. 204001763, Rubber Injection Moulding Machine ("Maplan Moulding Machine").

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits that Starlinger North America, Inc. was in the business of selling and distributing products and did sell distribute the Maplan MTF 100/15C Serial No. 204001763 Rubber Injection Moulding Machine, but denies the remainder of the allegations of paragraph 1.

2. Before July 21, 2006, but after July 21, 1996, Starlinger manufactured, sold, distributed, or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce a Maplan Moulding Machine which was ultimately purchased by NISCO for use by its employees, including Matthew.

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits before July 21, 2006 but after July 21, 1996 Starlinger North America, Inc. sold and distributed a Maplan Moulding Machine which was ultimately purchased by NISCO for use by its employees, including Plaintiff, but denies that Starlinger & Company Gesellschaft m.b.H did so.

3. On and before July 21, 2006, Starlinger owed Matthew and others a duty to use reasonable care in the design, manufacture, sale, distribution, or other placement into the stream of commerce of the Maplan Moulding Machine.

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits the duties imposed by law upon Starlinger North America, Inc., but denies that the allegations of paragraph 3 correctly state those duties.

4. On and before July 21, 2006, Starlinger breached the foregoing duty and was negligent in one or more of the following respects, *inter alia*:

- a. Starlinger designed the Maplan Moulding Machine in such a manner that an operator's hand could be caught in the machine;
- b. Starlinger manufactured the Maplan Moulding Machine in such a manner that an operator's hand could be caught in the machine;

- c. Starlinger designed the Maplan Moulding Machine without a means to open the machine if an operator's hand became caught in the machine;
- d. Starlinger manufactured the Maplan Moulding Machine without a means to open the machine if an operator's hand became caught in the machine;
- e. Starlinger failed to inspect and/or test the Maplan Moulding Machine prior to placing it into the stream of commerce, when a reasonable inspection and/or test would have revealed unreasonably dangerous and/or defective conditions in the Maplan Moulding Machine;
- f. Starlinger failed to provide complete warnings with the Maplan Moulding Machine regarding the dangers presented by the machine;
- g. Starlinger failed to provide complete instructions with the Maplan Moulding Machine regarding its proper use;
- h. Starlinger failed to exercise reasonable care in the design, manufacture and installation of the Maplan Moulding Machine so as to ensure that it could not be operated or the press engaged when operators were in the machine repairing, servicing, or otherwise maintaining the machine in a reasonably foreseeable manner;
- i. Starlinger failed to exercise reasonable care in the design, manufacture and installation of the Maplan Moulding Machine so as to ensure that it had safe and adequate guards at its pinch-points and point of operation so as to prevent operators and other users of the machine from foreseeable injury while the machine was being utilized in a reasonably foreseeable manner;
- j. Starlinger failed to warn Matthew and other users of known or expected dangers in the Maplan Moulding Machine which were not apparent to the ordinary user and which posed a danger of serious injury or death to Matthew and others under conditions of foreseeable use;
- k. Starlinger inadequately warned Matthew and other users of known or expected dangers in the Maplan Moulding Machine which were not apparent to the ordinary user and which posed a danger of serious injury or death to Matthew and others under conditions of foreseeable use;



- l. Starlinger failed to comply with applicable ANSI, OSHA, ISO, ASTM, and other safety standards governing design, manufacture, set-up, sale, warnings, installation and/or guarding of the Maplan Moulding Machine;
- m. Starlinger failed to comply with acceptable custom and practice in the industry governing design, manufacture, set-up, sale, warnings, installation and/or guarding of the Maplan Moulding Machine;
- n. Starlinger failed to exercise reasonable care in the design, manufacture, set-up and installation of the Maplan Moulding Machine so as to ensure that it had adequate and proper controls including an emergency stop which could be easily accessed and activated by all foreseeable users whether on or around the Maplan Moulding Machine;
- o. Starlinger failed to procure/distribute an appropriate Maplan Moulding Machine and/or components parts thereof when it knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known, of the uses to which the Maplan Moulding Machine would be put and the conditions in which it would be used;
- p. Starlinger failed to properly maintain the Maplan Moulding Machine and its component parts when reasonable maintenance would have prevented unreasonably dangerous defects and/or conditions of disrepair;
- q. Starlinger failed to properly inspect the Maplan Moulding Machine and its component parts when a reasonable inspection would have revealed unreasonably dangerous defects and/or conditions of disrepair;
- r. Starlinger failed to properly repair the Maplan Moulding Machine and its component parts when reasonable repairs would have corrected unreasonably dangerous defects and/or conditions of disrepair;
- s. Starlinger failed to adequately instruct and train users of the Maplan Moulding Machine and its components prior to and after providing it for their use;
- t. Starlinger failed to act as a reasonably prudent designer, manufacturer, seller, supplier, distributor, seller, installer, repairer, servicer, or procurer of the Maplan Moulding Machine would have acted under the same or similar circumstances;

- u. Starlinger failed to recall or retrieve the Maplan Moulding Machine after it had actual knowledge that it was unreasonably dangerous and/or defective; and/or
- v. Starlinger failed to use the same care and caution that a reasonably prudent person would have used under the same or substantially similar circumstances.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 4, including each and every subparagraph letters a. through v. therein.

5. As a result of the negligence of Starlinger, Matthew's hand became caught in the Maplan Moulding Machine while operating it at NISCO on July 21, 2006 and his hand was burned and could not be extricated for several minutes until others cut the hydraulic lines of the machine since there was no means to open the machine if an operator's hand became caught.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies that Starlinger North America, Inc. was negligent and is without sufficient knowledge with which to admit or deny the remaining allegations of paragraph 5.

6. As a proximate result of the negligence of defendants, Matthew suffered severe personal injuries; incurred ambulance, hospital, diagnostic, pharmaceutical, therapeutic, surgical, and other medical expenses; may incur such expenses in the future; suffered and may suffer physical pain, mental suffering, terror, fright, loss of time, impairment of earnings capacity, and permanent disability, disfigurement; loss of enjoyment of life; and incurred other injuries and damages of a personal and pecuniary nature.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 6 and denies that the plaintiff was injured or damaged in the manner or to the extent alleged.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Maplan Maschinen und Technische Anlagen Planungs und Fertigungs Gesmbh, an Austrian Company, denies that Plaintiff is entitled to relief in any amount whatsoever and requests that the Amended Complaint be dismissed with prejudice, and with an award of attorneys' fees, costs and such other and further relief this Court deems just and equitable.

**Count III – Res Ipsa Loquitur**

1. At all times relevant herein, Starlinger was in the business of manufacturing, selling, distributing, or otherwise placing into the stream of commerce products, including without limitation the Maplan MTF 100/15C, Serial No. 204001763, Rubber Injection Moulding Machine ("Maplan Moulding Machine").

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits that Starlinger North America, Inc. was in the business of selling and distributing products and did sell distribute the Maplan MTF 100/15C Serial No. 204001763 Rubber Injection Moulding Machine, but denies the remainder of the allegations of paragraph 1.

2. Before July 21, 2006, Starlinger manufactured, sold, distributed, or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce a Maplan Moulding Machine which was ultimately purchased by NISCO for use by its employees, including Matthew, in South Bend, Indiana.

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits before July 21, 2006 but after July 21, 1996 Starlinger North America, Inc. sold and distributed a Maplan Moulding Machine which was ultimately purchased by NISCO for use by its employees, including Plaintiff, but denies that Starlinger & Company Gesellschaft m.b.H did so.

3. On and before July 21, 2006, Starlinger owed Matthew and others a duty to use reasonable care in the design, manufacture, sale, distribution, or other placement into the stream of commerce of the Maplan Moulding Machine.

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits the duties imposed by law upon Starlinger North America, Inc., but denies that the allegations of paragraph 3 correctly state those duties.

4. The Maplan Moulding Machine was designed, manufactured, sold, distributed or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce under the exclusive control of Starlinger.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 4.

5. Matthew's hand became caught in the Maplan Moulding Machine while operating it at NISCO on July 21, 2006 and his hand could not be extricated for several minutes until others cut the hydraulic lines of the machine since there was no means to open the machine if an operator's hand became caught.

**ANSWER:** Maplan is without sufficient knowledge with which to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 5.

6. The occurrence involving Matthew is an event which would not have occurred absent negligence on the part of Starlinger in the design, manufacture, sale, distribution, or other placement into the stream of commerce of the Maplan Moulding Machine and demonstrates negligence on the part of Starlinger.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 6.

7. As a proximate result of the negligence of defendants, Matthew suffered severe personal injuries; incurred ambulance, hospital, diagnostic, pharmaceutical, therapeutic, surgical, and other medical expenses; may incur such expenses in the future; suffered and may suffer physical pain, mental suffering, terror, fright, loss of time, impairment of earnings capacity, and permanent disability, disfigurement; loss of enjoyment of life; and incurred other injuries and damages of a personal and pecuniary nature.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 7 and denies that the plaintiff was injured or damaged in the manner or to the extent alleged.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Maplan Maschinen und Technische Anlagen Planungs und Fertigungs Gesmbh, an Austrian Company, denies that Plaintiff is entitled to relief in any amount whatsoever and requests that the Amended Complaint be dismissed with prejudice, that judgment be entered in favor of the Defendant and that it be awarded attorneys' fees, costs and such other and further relief this Court deems just and equitable.

**Court IV – Breach of Warranty**

1. At all times relevant herein, Starlinger was in the business of manufacturing, selling, distributing, or otherwise placing into the stream of commerce products, including without limitation the Maplan MTF 100/15C, Serial No. 204001763, Maplan Moulding Machine ("Maplan Moulding Machine").

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits that Starlinger North America, Inc. was in the business of selling and distributing products and did sell distribute the Maplan MTF 100/15C Serial No. 204001763 Rubber Injection Moulding Machine, but denies the remainder of the allegations of paragraph 1.

2. Before July 21, 2006, Starlinger manufactured, sold, distributed, or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce a Maplan Moulding Machine which was ultimately purchased by NISCO for use by its employees, including Matthew, in South Bend, Indiana.

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits before July 21, 2006 but after July 21, 1996 Starlinger North America, Inc. sold and distributed a Maplan Moulding Machine which was ultimately purchased by NISCO for use by its employees, including Plaintiff, but denies that Starlinger & Company Gesellschaft m.b.H did so.

3. At all times relevant herein, Starlinger was in the business of manufacturing, selling, distributing, or otherwise placing into the stream of commerce products, including without limitation the Maplan MTF 100/15C, Serial No. 204001763, Rubber Injection Moulding Machine ("Maplan Moulding Machine").

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits that Starlinger North America, Inc. was in the business of selling and distributing products and did sell distribute the Maplan MTF 100/15C Serial No. 204001763 Rubber Injection Moulding Machine, but denies the remainder of the allegations of paragraph 1.

4. On or about and during and between July 21, 1996 and July 21, 2006 the defendants, Starlinger, manufactured, advertised and distributed to the public, a Maplan Moulding Machine, and during this period NISCO purchased and used the Maplan Moulding Machine.

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits before July 21, 2006 but after July 21, 1996 Starlinger North America, Inc. sold and distributed a Maplan Moulding Machine which was ultimately purchased by NISCO for use by its employees, including Plaintiff, but denies that Starlinger & Company Gesellschaft m.b.H did so.

5. Starlinger knew that members of the public were purchasing the Maplan Moulding Machine for injection moulding purposes and knew that the purchasers would rely upon defendants' implied warranty that the Maplan Moulding Machine, was safe for its intended purpose.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 5.

6. Starlinger owed a duty to use reasonable care in the design, manufacture, sale, distribution, or other placement into the stream of commerce of the Maplan Moulding Machine and to ensure that it was safe for its intended purpose.

**ANSWER:** Maplan admits the duties imposed by law upon Starlinger North America, Inc., but denies that the allegations of paragraph 6 correctly state those duties.

7. Matthew, and his employer, relied upon Starlinger's skill and judgment and implied warranty of fitness for its intended purpose as an injection moulding machine, the purpose for which the Maplan Moulding Machine was sold and distributed by defendants to the public and to Matthew and his employer. Starlinger did not furnish proper directions or warnings about the dangerous consequences of the use of the Maplan Moulding Machine.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 7.

8. On or about July 21, 2006, Matthew sustained permanent and disfiguring injuries by use of the Maplan Moulding Machine. The disfigurement and disability caused by the Maplan Moulding Machine has continued to the present time.

**ANSWER:** Maplan is without sufficient knowledge with which to admit or deny the allegations of paragraph 8.

9. Starlinger breached their warranty of fitness for a particular purpose upon Matthew becoming permanently injured and disfigured by use of the Maplan Moulding Machine.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 9.

10. Immediately upon his injury defendants were given reasonable notice of the product's harmful effects and of defendant's breach of warranty.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 10.

11. The Maplan Moulding Machine was unsafe and was not reasonably fit for its intended use. Proximately caused by using the machine for its reasonably foreseeable and intended purpose, Matthew suffered severe personal injuries; incurred ambulance, hospital, diagnostic, pharmaceutical, therapeutic, surgical, and other medical expenses; may incur such expenses in the future; suffered and may suffer physical pain, mental suffering, terror, fright, loss of time, impairment of earnings capacity, and permanent disability, disfigurement; loss of enjoyment of life; and incurred other injuries and damages of a personal and pecuniary nature.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 11 and denies that the plaintiff was injured or damaged in the manner and to the extent alleged.

12. As a direct result of defendant's breach of the implied warranty of fitness for a particular purpose and warranty of merchantability, plaintiff has been damaged in the sum of not less than twenty-five million dollars.

**ANSWER:** Maplan denies the allegations of paragraph 12.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Maplan Maschinen und Technische Anlagen Planungs und Fertigungs Gesmbh, an Austrian Company, denies that Plaintiff is entitled to relief in any amount whatsoever and requests that the Amended Complaint be dismissed with prejudice, that judgment be entered in favor of the Defendant and that it be awarded attorneys' fees, costs and such other and further relief this Court deems just and equitable.

### **FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

#### **Comparative Negligence**

Defendant Maplan alleges that immediately before and at the time of the occurrence alleged, Plaintiff, Matthew F. Abbott, failed to use ordinary care for his own safety in that he

placed his hand under or around the safety cage on the machine at issue and into the machine, and this negligence caused or contributed to the occurrence and the alleged injuries and damages and either bars his recovery or reduces his recovery in direct proportion to the degree of fault attributed to him.

## **SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

### **Sole Proximate Cause**

Defendant Maplan alleges that immediately before and at the time of the occurrence alleged, the sole proximate cause of Plaintiff, Matthew F. Abbott's injury and damages was the conduct of some person other than the defendant, Maplan.

## **THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

### **Open and Obvious**

Defendant Maplan alleges that the danger of putting one's hand under or around the safety cage and into the machine at issue was open and obvious and this conduct either bars the recovery of Plaintiff Matthew F. Abbott or reduces his recovery in direct proportion to the fault attributable to Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Maplan Maschinen und Technische Anlagen Planungs und Fertigungs Gesmbh, an Austrian Company, denies that Plaintiff is entitled to relief in any amount whatsoever and request that the Amended Complaint be dismissed with prejudice, that judgment be entered in favor of the Defendant and that it be awarded attorneys' fees, costs and such other and further relief this Court deems just and equitable.



Respectfully submitted,

/s/Lloyd E. Williams, Jr.

One of the Attorneys for Maplan Maschinen und  
Technische Anlagen Planungs und Fertigungs  
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